

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



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WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, July 26, 2002

The President's Radio Address

July 20, 2002

Good morning. As Congress approaches the August recess, it must take decisive steps to provide economic security to the American people, to demand high ethical standards from corporate leaders, to promote economic growth and job creation, and to curb its appetite for excessive spending.

We must promote economic security by enforcing high ethical standards for American businesses. Unethical business practices by corporate leaders amount to theft and fraud. These practices are unacceptable, and we are fighting them with active prosecutions and tough enforcement by the SEC. We will defend the rights and interests of every American worker and shareholder, and we will not accept anything less than complete honesty.

The House and Senate have both passed strong corporate accountability bills that toughen penalties and provide transparency and hold corporate executives accountable for their behavior. I am confident that the differences between the House and Senate approaches can be bridged. Some in Congress have predicted that it will take 2 months for the House and Senate to send a bill to my desk. There is no good reason for the legislative process to take that long. I call again on Congress to pass a bill before the August recess. It's time to act decisively to bring a new era of integrity to American business.

We must also increase economic security for American workers through expanded trade. For over a year now, the United States Congress has debated trade promotion authority. This week, I met with Members of the House and Senate to urge them to resolve their differences and approve a bill. If Congress waits, less markets will be open to American goods, and less jobs will be created for American workers.

To promote our economic security, we also need to act on a terrorism insurance bill. Until Congress sends a bill to my desk, some buildings will not be able to get coverage against terrorist attacks, and many new buildings will not be built at all. Commercial development is stalling, and workers are missing out on these jobs. This year alone, the lack of terrorism insurance has killed or delayed more than \$8 billion in commercial property financing. Congress should pass a terrorism insurance bill without unnecessary measures that increase frivolous litigation.

Finally, we must promote economic security by enforcing fiscal restraint. Congress must control its enormous appetite for excessive spending so we can meet our national priorities and return to a budget surplus without undermining our economy. Unless Congress controls its spending, we will face a decade of deficits. I will insist on and, if necessary, I will enforce discipline in Federal spending.

This is a crucial moment for the American economy. The economic fundamentals are strong. Inflation and interest rates are low. Productivity is increasing, and the economy is expanding, which creates more jobs. While the economy is growing stronger, confidence in our free enterprise system is being tested.

Unethical business conduct that began in the boom of the 1990s is being uncovered. Investors have lost money. Some in retirement have lost security. Workers have lost jobs, and the trust of the American people has been betrayed.

As we face these economic challenges, my administration will do everything in its power to ensure business integrity and long-term growth. We must act quickly and aggressively on a variety of fronts to increase the economic security of the American people, and I ask the Congress to join me in this urgent task.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:50 a.m. on July 19 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 20. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 19 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Exchange With Reporters During a Tour of the Advanced Photon Source Lab in Argonne, Illinois
July 22, 2002

Stock Market

Q. A lot of people are losing their life savings in the market. What's your advice to them, pull out? Stay in? Put more money in?

The President. Well, I'm not a stockbroker or a stockpicker, but I do believe that the fundamentals for economic growth are real. And I believe Congress is going to get a bill that will help to take some of the uncertainty out of the market, and that bill is going to put some meaningful reforms in place.

And then, the investor is going to pick value, make decisions on value. And from what I hear, corporate profits are improving, which means values will be available for those who invest in the market.

Secondly, I fully understand some have diversified into bonds. And for those who have, their portfolios are better than those who have stayed only in equity. But I'm an optimist. I believe the future's going to be bright.

But look, you're talking to the wrong guy about what stocks to buy.

WorldCom

Q. Do you believe the country will feel the effects of today's WorldCom bankruptcy? Does that worry you?

The President. I think the market probably has already adjusted for that. What I'm worried about on the WorldCom bankruptcy is the employees that work for WorldCom. I worry that people will lose work. But the market has already, I suspect, has already anticipated the WorldCom decision.

The key is for Congress to get a bill. I talked with the Speaker about it today. He's optimistic that we will get a good bill. And

I meant what I said, I'd like to see the bill on my desk prior to the recess.

Department of Homeland Security Legislation

Q. Mr. President, is the September 11th deadline for getting homeland security bill through, is that—some are saying—is it realistic?

The President. Well, I think they made great progress. I know they made great progress in the House. And the Senate is going to take it up in the next 2 weeks. And I believe there's a good chance we can get—

Q. But would you rather—if it came to it, would you rather wait and make sure it was done right, or does it have to be done—

The President. Well, you're suggesting it's not being done right now in the House, and I'm sure those Members will—

Q. You never know what's going to happen in that Senate, sir—[laughter].

The President. I'm sure the Speaker appreciates that. But I do believe it's going to be done right. We're working closely with the Members. Hopefully, we can get it done by September the 11th. The key is to get it done.

Trade Promotion Authority Legislation

Q. Are you going to get trade promotion authority this week?

The President. Well, that's a good question. I talked to the Speaker about that. I'm anxious that they come together and get a bill up. It's important for our economy that we get a trade promotion authority. I know the Speaker's committed to getting a bill to the floor, once the conference finishes its work.

I met with the leaders of both the House and the Senate, both parties, and urged them to reconcile any differences and get the bill to the floor of the House before they go on recess. We'll just have to see. When I get back to Washington, I'm going to check in, because our people are working that bill hard, working the corporate responsibility bill hard as well.

Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill

Q. Mr. President, what do you say to the folks, the growing number of folks who are calling for Treasury Secretary O'Neill to step down?

The President. I say he's doing a fine job. And when the market goes up, I hope they will give him credit. If they're going to hold him accountable for a market going down, they ought to give him credit when the market goes up.

But I have all the confidence in the world in Secretary of the Treasury O'Neill. And I understand one newspaper was calling for his scalp, but you know, that's Washington, DC. That's what happens in that town.

Stock Market

Q. Mr. President, in that regard, after such a terrible week on the stock market last week, what's it going to take for investors to have the confidence to make that market go up again?

The President. Value. They're going to realize that there's values in the market. In other words, if they buy stock, they're buying value, as opposed to buying, you know, buying into a bubble.

And one of the things we can do in Washington is get a corporate responsibility bill passed, and I'm confident we will, which will take some of the risk out of the market. And the risk is that people won't be held accountable for misdeeds.

But people will be buying—buying in the market based upon the value. And what's happening is, corporate earnings are improving, so that the price/earnings ratios are improving. And I believe people are going to come back into the market. But listen, I'm not a stockbroker. I'm not a stockpicker. My attitude on Wall Street is, they'll buy you or sell you, depending upon if it's in their interest.

And you know, when I was—when I used to watch the stocks, I was in Midland, Texas, somewhat skeptical about what was taking place on the floors of these exchanges. But I know—I always knew—that you needed to buy on value, that the price relative to the earnings of the company needed to be in line with what they considered value. And I believe the values are improving. I know the economics, the platform for growth is in good

shape. Inflation is low. Monetary policy is sound. Fiscal policy is sound. Productivity is up. Orders for durable goods are up. We've got the platform for growth.

When the values get there, you'll see the market go back up.

Thank you.

What?

2002 Election

Q. Any concerns about the Republican Party here in Illinois? There's been a lot of—

The President. No, we're going to win the Governor's race.

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:15 a.m. at the Argonne National Laboratory.

Remarks at the Argonne National Laboratory in Argonne

July 22, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Please have a seat—[laughter]—unless you don't have a chair. [Laughter] Thank you all very much for welcoming me here. I'm honored to be here. I'm honored to be here with some of the finest Americans in our country.

We're in a new kind of war today. We face a ruthless and a resourceful enemy. We do. That's the reality of the 21st century. These people seek to acquire the most destructive of weapons because they hate freedom. They intend to spread fear and death around the world. To prevail in this war, we're going to take the battle to the enemy in foreign lands. To prevail in this war, we'll use our law enforcement and our intelligence gathering all across our country to prevent the American people from being harmed. And to prevail in this war, we will fight on the frontiers of knowledge and discovery.

In this new war, we will rely upon the genius and creativity of the American people. And that's why I'm here, to look in the eyes of those who possess the genius and the creativity of the American people. Our scientific community is serving on the frontlines of this war by developing new technologies that will make America safer. And as you tackle new scientific challenges, I want you to know, our Government will stand by your side to make

your job easier. It is in our interests that we work together.

I want to thank Spence Abraham for his leadership at the Department of Energy, and I want to thank all of you for working for the fine Department of Energy. I want to thank Tom Ridge for coming. He's a man—I asked him, I said, "You know, you need to serve your country." He was serving as the Governor of Pennsylvania. I said, "You've got a nice mansion over there." [Laughter] "It's heavy lifting, but we need you in Washington." And for the good of the country, he came to help us spearhead the effort for a Department of Homeland Security.

And I want to thank Dr. John Marburger, who is the Director of Office Science and Technology Policy. Dr. Marburger is a fine scientist who represents the best of American scientists in Washington, DC.

I appreciate the Speaker of the House being here. He's my friend. He's doing a fine job on behalf of the citizens of Illinois and the United States of America, Speaker Denny Hastert. And I want to thank Senator Durbin and Senator Fitzgerald for coming as well. I know they've got busy schedules. Thank you all for being here. I appreciate you coming. I appreciate Judy Biggert, Jerry Weller, and Mark Kirk, fine Members of the House of Representatives from Illinois, being here today. I look forward to giving them a lift back to Washington. [Laughter] It's a nice way to travel. I think you all will like it. [Laughter]

I want to thank the Governor, George Ryan, for coming. Governor, I appreciate your time. I want to thank the attorney general of Illinois, Jim Ryan, for coming as well. I want to thank Ray Orbach, who is the Director of Office and Science at the Department of Energy, who led us on our tour. And of course I've got to thank Dr. Gruner. If everybody had a spirit like Dr. Gruner, the world would be an incredibly happy place. We're proud of you, Hermann. Thank you for your service to the country, and thank you all very much.

The Argonne National Laboratory is a cutting-edge facility. You're on the cutting edge, and you've got a great history as well. It is a direct decedent of the University of Chicago laboratory, where in 1942 Enrico Fermi

and his colleagues achieved the world's first controlled nuclear chain reaction. This is a place where smart people work. [Laughter] It is the home of some of America's greatest scientists, who continue to dazzle the world with astonishing breakthroughs.

I've just come back from viewing some demonstrations of the great work done at national laboratories, whether it be here or Los Alamos or Sandia or others. The American people need to know we've got a lot of brain-power working on ways to deal with the threats that we now face as we head into the 21st century.

For example, I saw a warning and response system that will supply first-responders with timely and life-saving information in the event of a chemical attack on a subway or any other enclosed space. I saw a project that uses new advances in genetic research to identify and understand biological agents that could be used against us. I saw computer simulations to help policymakers and first-responders anticipate the effect of an attack of natural disaster and to develop life-saving plans. What I saw was new technologies that our scientists are developing to help us secure the homeland. America is grateful. It's grateful for your work. And our Government must be organized and focused to support these efforts.

Right now there are more than 100 different Federal agencies that have some role in the homeland defense of our country. And despite everyone's best intentions in those agencies, this inevitably leads to a dispersal of authority. Imagine, 100 of them scattered all over Washington, DC. It makes it hard to have accountability when you've got 100 agencies scattered around, and it's a drain on critical resources.

So I asked Congress to join me in creating a single, permanent, Cabinet-level Department of Homeland Security with an overriding and urgent mission, with this primary focus: to secure the American homeland. There are agencies—once they're under this—in this new Department will have other missions, no question about it. But their primary mission is to recognize the new world in which we live. The world has changed, and so must our Government change with

it, in order to allow all of us who have responsibility to say to the American people, "We're doing everything we possibly can to protect innocent American lives." This Department of Homeland Security will foster a new culture throughout our Government, one that emphasizes cooperation and working together on behalf of the American people. And this Department will have four primary tasks.

First, it will work to control our borders. There needs to be much better cooperation amongst the agencies to make sure we know who is coming in the country, what they're bringing in the country, why they're coming in the country, and are they leaving when they said they're going to leave the country.

We need to work—one of the primary responsibilities will be to work with State and local authorities to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies. In other words, we need to be better coordinated with the brave first-time responders—that means police and fire and EMS teams which exist all across our country. We want to have them have the strategy necessary to respond, the tools to respond effectively, and to be coordinated not only at the Federal level, the State level, and the local level.

Thirdly, we need to merge under one roof the capability to identify and assess threats to the homeland, map those threats against our vulnerabilities, and address the vulnerabilities. So prior to September the 11th, we had the CIA collecting information, and we had the FBI collecting information, and sometimes they weren't talking all that much. Now they talk. Now they coordinate.

When I'm there in Washington, I meet every morning, face to face, with the Director of the CIA and with the head of the FBI. It's a way to make sure that, at least at the very top levels of Government, people are communicating, and we're sharing information. We need to do that throughout all our Government and the Department of Homeland Security. We need to be able to take the information—intelligence gathered from around the world, as well as at home, and understand what might or might not be happening. One of the key tools that we need to use effectively against the coldblooded killers who we're trying to chase down is the

capacity of our Nation to collect and analyze information.

And finally, we need our scientists to develop the kinds of technologies I saw today. We need to have an effective strategy of maturing up our brainpower with the problems we face, so as to stay on the cutting edge of technological change necessary to protect the homeland.

And this last point is an incredibly important point, and that's why I've come to this laboratory to make the point. *[Laughter]* It's a perfect place to make the point. We will harness our science and our technology in a way to protect the American people. We will consolidate most federally funded homeland security research and development to avoid duplication and to make sure all the efforts are focused.

You see, we need to learn to set priorities in our Government. And the number one priority is to protect America from attack, because we're at war. The Department of Homeland Security will work to create a long-term plan. And once you have the long-term plan with the goal of securing the homeland, then we can set funding priorities. We give our scientists the resources they require, and that's important for you to know—resources necessary to counter the chemical and the biological and the radiological and nuclear threats that our Nation faces. And these threats are real. And therefore, we need to stay focused, not only to make sure resources are spent but that critical research continues, because you all know better than anybody, when we research and we set priorities, this great Nation can achieve any objective.

We're making progress. We are making progress in Washington. I appreciate so very much the House select committee getting a bill out, and it's going to get to the floor. And the Speaker was telling me today that it looks like they may get a vote this week, and the Senate is working hard on it. Both Republicans and Democrats are working hard to reconcile any differences that may be had. It's important for people to understand, particularly in Washington, this Department of Homeland Security is not a good Republican idea; it's not a good Democrat

idea; it's simply an American idea. And they need to get their work done.

And as they do so, the new Secretary of Homeland Security must have the freedom and the flexibility to be able to get the right people in the right job at the right time, so we can hold people accountable in Washington. We need the freedom to manage. We don't need to be micromanaged. And that's sometimes what happens in Washington, DC. The new Secretary needs the ability to move money and resources quickly, to respond to true threats.

I understand why that may not happen sometimes in Washington, and it's because, for example, appropriators may not want the executive branch to have the capacity to make decisions necessary to make the Homeland Department work effectively. But we're in new times in America, and that requires new thinking. And Congress must give us the flexibility necessary to make the right decisions to achieve our goal, which is to protect the American people.

As well, this new Department must have every tool it needs to secure the homeland. This new agency should include all of the departments which protect our border—all of the departments, not just some, but all of the departments. That includes the Coast Guard, the Customs Service, the INS—INS inspectors, Border Patrol, and Customs agents must report to the same boss and work together for the same goals. And this new Department needs to be able to respond effectively to any attack that might come, so it must house FEMA in its entirety.

What I'm telling you is, I understand that these changes won't be easy for some in Congress, but for the sake of the security of the American people, Congress needs to give up some of its turf and recognize turf is not nearly as important as security for the people—security for the American people. We're in new times, folks. We're in a different world. We face an unprecedented threat, and we cannot respond with business as usual.

But I want you to know something, how I feel, and what I know. I know that the best way to secure the homeland is to hunt these coldblooded killers down, one by one, and bring them to justice. And that's what we're

going to do. And it's going to take awhile. It's going to take awhile. Unlike past wars, where you could see platoons and battalions moving here, or airplane formations moving there, we're chasing down these people who are willing to hide in a cave and send youngsters to their death. That's the kind of people we're facing.

You know, these people hate—they hate America because we love freedom. They hate the fact that—as I look out, I mean, I can see people who worship an Almighty and some who don't, who worship an Almighty one way and others another way. They hate that. They can't stand a society which honors freedom, freedom to worship, freedom to speak, freedom to express our opinions. That's what they hate, and they're going to hate us for a long time because those are the values we'll never relinquish in America.

We believe in tolerance in America. That's what we believe in. We respect the other person. We always don't agree, but we respect, and we tolerate. And we believe everybody ought to have access to the great American experience, regardless of how they're raised or where they're from. That's what we believe.

And any time anybody who tries to get us because of those beliefs—they're going to find something out about America. I don't know what was going through the minds of the enemy when they were plotting and planning. I don't know who they thought they were attacking. They must have thought this country was so materialistic, so self-absorbed that we would sit back and, you know, after the attacks, maybe file a lawsuit or two. *[Laughter]* That's not the America I know. And that's not the America you're a part of.

Listen, when people come after us, we're plenty tough. We're a compassionate nation. And so we're on the hunt. You just need to know we're after them, one by one—one by one. And so long as I'm the President of this country, we're going to chase them down, one by one, to make sure the American homeland is secure.

And we're making progress. As I said in a speech in front of about 10,000 of our troops and their families in Fort Drum, New

York, last Friday: We've hauled in thousands—that means captured—[laughter]—and another couple of thousand weren't quite as lucky. We're making progress. Sometimes it's not quite as dramatic as, you know, the newscasters would like, because—they learned their lesson, by the way. They understand if they bunch up, if they get together, our military is going to find them. And it's not going to be a pleasant day when our military does find them, because we're good. I'm really proud of the United States military and those who serve.

And I'm proud of you all too. That's really what I'm here to tell you. I'm proud of you. We're depending on you to develop the tools we need to lift the dark threat of terrorism for our Nation and, for that matter, the world. All of us here today, whether we're scientists or engineers or elected officials, share in a great calling. It's an honor to participate in a noble cause that's larger than ourselves.

Audience member. God bless America.

The President. It's an honor to defend this Nation. It's a high honor to be called into action and to defend our Nation when it's threatened, and that's what you're doing. It's an honor to help protect the American people against the forces of evil.

History has called each of us to defend America. That's what's happened. History has called us into action in a time of great peril. The struggles against nazism and communism helped to define the 20th century. The war on terror will be the defining conflict of the 21st century. It's our solemn duty. It's our responsibility, and it's our great privilege to help America prevail in this war. And prevail we will.

May God bless you all. May God bless your work, and may God bless America. Thank you very much. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:33 a.m. in a courtyard behind the Advanced Photon Source Building. In his remarks, he referred to Hermann A. Grunder, director, Argonne National Laboratory.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on Continued Operations of United States Forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina

July 22, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In my report to the Congress of January 21, 2002, I provided information on the deployment of combat-equipped U.S. Armed Forces to Bosnia and Herzegovina and other states in the region in order to participate in and support the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-led Stabilization Force (SFOR). The SFOR began its mission and assumed authority from the NATO-led Implementation Force on December 20, 1996. I am providing this supplemental report, prepared by my Administration and consistent with the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93-148), to help ensure that the Congress is kept fully informed on continued U.S. contributions in support of peacekeeping efforts in the former Yugoslavia.

The U.N. Security Council authorized Member States to continue SFOR for a period of 12 months in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1423 of July 12, 2002. The mission of SFOR is to provide a focused military presence in order to deter hostilities, stabilize and consolidate the peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, contribute to a secure environment, and provide, within its means and capabilities, selective support to key areas and key civil implementation organizations.

Initially, the United States vetoed the U.N. Security Council Resolution authorizing Member States to continue SFOR for a period of 12 months because it did not provide protection for U.S. forces participating in SFOR from the purported jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC). In U.N. Security Council Resolution 1422, the Security Council requested that the ICC not commence any investigation or prosecution in any case arising from acts or omissions relating to a U.N. established or authorized operation that involve current or former officials or personnel from a contributing state not a Party to the Rome Statute for a period of

12 months starting July 1, 2002; this resolution has the effect of prohibiting the ICC from commencing any investigation or prosecution of U.S. forces in SFOR for a period of 1 year. The Security Council further declared its intention to renew this resolution on an annual basis. In light of these protections for U.S. forces and personnel, the United States voted in favor of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1423.

The U.S. force contribution to SFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina is approximately 2,400 personnel. United States personnel comprise just under 15 percent of the total SFOR force of approximately 15,800 personnel. During the first half of 2002, 18 NATO nations and 17 others, including Russia, provided military personnel or other support to SFOR. Most U.S. forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina are assigned to Multinational Division, North, headquartered in the city of Tuzla. Additionally, U.S. military personnel are deployed to other countries in the region in support of SFOR. These deployments include approximately 60 U.S. military personnel deployed to Hungary and Croatia to provide logistical and other support. The U.S. forces continue to support SFOR efforts to apprehend persons indicted for war crimes. In the last 6 months, U.S. forces have not sustained any combat-related fatalities.

I have directed the participation of U.S. Armed Forces in these operations pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive.

I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress fully informed about developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina and other states in the region. I will continue to consult closely with the Congress regarding our efforts to foster peace and stability in the former Yugoslavia.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Sierra Leone and Liberia

July 22, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am providing herewith a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Sierra Leone and Liberia that was declared in Executive Order 13194 of January 18, 2001, and expanded in scope in Executive Order 13213 of May 22, 2001.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 22, 2002.

Remarks on the Adoption Public Service Announcement Campaign

July 23, 2002

The President. Thank you, Laura. Laura loves children a lot, and I'm really proud to call her wife. And she's doing a fine job as our First Lady, and I'm proud of the job she's doing.

Here's what I love about adoption: It reveals the good heart of America. That's what adoption does. Extending the welcome of family to a vulnerable child is a great commitment, but it's an extraordinary act of love. Adoptive families and foster families deserve our Nation's thanks and our Nation's recognition. So, thanks.

Every year, American families adopt tens of thousands of children. Many of these children come from America's foster care system. Yet, there are many more in that system whose deepest desire is to become a member of a family. Today I'm proud to announce some steps that will make adoption easier and a more common part of our life in America.

But first, I want to thank Laura, and I want to thank Congresswoman Anne Northup, an

adoptive mom, for being here, State of Kentucky. And I appreciate Ben Cardin from Maryland being here as well. Thank you both for coming. I want to thank my Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, Larry Lindsey, for being here. Larry's an adoptive dad. Thank you for coming, Larry. I'm glad my sister-in-law Margaret is here, and Marshall. Thank you both for coming.

I appreciate so very much Bruce Willis in his role in this, what you're about to see. It's awfully generous and kind of a person who is a busy person to say, "What can I do to help? How can I lend my fame to make America a better place?" And we appreciate that spirit of giving.

I also want to recognize the fact that his daughters are with us today, Rumer and Scout and Tallulah. I want to welcome you all. Tallulah—actually, Tallulah Belle—*[laughter]*—followed her dad's example of serving something greater than self in life. She wrote me a letter informing me that she and her Girl Scout troop had raised 36—money to buy 36,000 boxes of Girl Scout cookies to send to the children of Afghanistan. And that is—*[applause]*.

And we want to thank Demi Moore for coming as well. Welcome to the White House, the mom of the three girls.

I appreciate so very much and want to welcome the families created through adoption who are with us today. It is our great privilege to welcome you to the people's house, and we hope you enjoy your stay as much as we are enjoying our stay. It's a beautiful place. *[Laughter]* And it's a great place to welcome some of our—America's heroes, people who are making a huge difference in the lives of our fellow citizens.

I also appreciate the Department of Health and Human Services Children's Bureau for their good work. I want to thank you all very much for helping to promote this noble cause.

Common sense and social science lead to the same conclusion: Children thrive in secure, loving, and stable homes. Providing that kind of home through adoption can be a long and a time-consuming process. I understand that. Adopting a child can add to the normal challenges of one's daily life. I fully understand that as well. Yet, adoption changes a

single life forever, and it brings countless blessings to the lives of parents.

Mitch Pearlstein and his wife, Diane, live in Minneapolis. They couldn't be with us today, but I want to share with you some of his—their quick story—their story in a quick way. They adopted their daughter, Nicole, when she was 5 years old. Nicole was born to a mom who used crack cocaine during her pregnancy and a dad who was a drug dealer. Nicole lived in more than a dozen foster care and emergency placement homes before she was adopted by Mitch and Diane. Here's what Mitch says: "Adopting Nicole was the most difficult thing we've done in our lives, period. And adopting Nicole was the best thing we've done in our lives, period." I bet some people here understand what they were saying.

As I mentioned, my brother Marvin and Margaret have two children who are adopted, and many members of my administration do as well. My Secretary of Commerce and great friend from Midland, Texas, Don Evans, adopted a little boy. And Larry and his wife have adopted children—three children. And many here have adopted. Adoptive parents have a special calling, and you deserve our gratitude.

There are many children in America, toddlers, teens, brothers and sisters who need to stay together, and children from every background. They urgently need love and permanent homes. Finding that home may determine a more hopeful course for their entire life. Right now there are about 130,000 children in our Nation's foster care system waiting to be adopted—130,000 precious lives hoping to find a permanent home. Good foster care is essential. Yet, children hunger for the stability of a permanent home, and every child deserves to be a part of a permanent, loving family. That's our hope.

Promoting adoption is an issue where all Americans of both political parties can agree. It's one of those issues—it's not a partisan issue. And for those of us who support the dignity of every human life, we have a responsibility to encourage hopeful lives for children who are born.

Earlier this year, I signed into law the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Act, which supports adoption and post-adoptive services

to place children with loving families. It helps ease a child's transition into a new family. It helps ensure that families stay strong and intact. It also provides for educational and training vouchers to children adopted after the age of 16, as well as older foster youth.

The tax relief bill I signed into law last year eases the financial burden on families that adopt children. It doubled the maximum adoption tax credit up to \$10,000 for adoption-related expenses. And parents who adopt children with special needs will automatically get the full credit once the adoption is finalized.

These are practical ways to help. We're using the Tax Code to help, providing Federal dollars to help. We've eased the burdens on adoption, but now we must encourage more Americans to choose adoption. And that's what we're here to talk about today.

And so, today I'm pleased to announce the first Federal adoption Web site. It's called AdoptUSKids.org. In its first year of operation, the Web site will feature pictures and profiles of more than 6,500 children who are available for adoption as well as maintain a database of prospective adoptive parents who have been approved by the States.

AdoptUSKids.org will help overcome geographic barriers to adoption and shorten the time a child may have to wait in foster care. And that's important. In addition, the site is a great resource for families who have already adopted. I urge parents across America to visit this site and, as they visit the site, examine their hearts to find a place in their home for a waiting child.

Today I'm also unveiling a new public service announcement campaign to promote adoption. This PSA urges families to consider adopting children in foster care. It features the new Web site I mentioned and provides a toll-free number that families can call to receive useful information on how to adopt. The PSA will raise public awareness, and our hope is that they will make a difference in the lives of a lot of children.

I'm pleased to tell you that the PSA will feature two distinguished Americans. I hand-

picked them myself—[*laughter*]*—*well, not exactly. But Laura and Bruce Willis have agreed to serve in the PSA.

We all know Bruce is a tough guy on the—in the movies. Truth of the matter is, he has a tender heart. He has a tender heart for children. And I'm thrilled he's our new national spokesman for Children in Foster Care. It's my honor to welcome to the podium Bruce Willis.

[*At this point, actor Bruce Willis, spokesman for Children in Foster Care, made brief remarks.*]

The President. Thank you, Bruce. Now we're going to watch the PSA, I believe.

Mr. Willis. Yes. I'm pleased to announce this new adoption public service announcement.

[*The public service announcement featuring Bruce Willis and Laura Bush was shown.*]

The President. Looks like one of those Oscar-winning performances to me. [*Laughter*] Anyway, thank you both for doing this. I think it's going to make a big difference. I do. I want to thank you all for coming again.

You know, we live in a great country. It's a country full of really loving and decent people, and there's no doubt in my mind, when people hear the call, they will respond to the needs of a lot of our children, just like parents have here today. Laura and I had the honor of greeting some adoptive parents to the White House today, and we want to thank you all for coming.

May God bless your work, and may God bless America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:33 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to his brother Marvin Bush and his wife, Margaret, and their daughter, Marshall; actress Demi Moore; and Susan Lindsey, wife of Larry Lindsey. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Bruce Willis. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Memorandum on Delegation of Authority With Respect to Concluding Amendments to the Agreement Concerning Trade in Certain Steel Products From the Russian Federation

July 23, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of Commerce

Subject: Delegation of Authority With Respect to Concluding Amendments to the July 12, 1999, Agreement Concerning Trade in Certain Steel Products from the Russian Federation

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, it is hereby ordered that the Secretary of Commerce is designated and empowered to exercise, following consultations with the United States Trade Representative and other agencies as appropriate, the authority vested in the President to conclude amendments to the July 12, 1999, Agreement Concerning Trade in Certain Steel Products from the Russian Federation in accordance with Article XI of the 1990 Agreement on Trade Relations between the United States of America and the Russian Federation, and title IV of the Trade Act of 1974. The Secretary may exercise such authority without approval, ratification, or other action of the President.

As the Secretary of Commerce may direct, the Assistant Secretary for Import Administration is authorized to exercise the authority vested in the Secretary by this memorandum.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 25, 2002]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 24, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on July 26.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Congressional Leaders

July 24, 2002

Legislative Agenda

The President. Today I've had the honor of talking to Members of the United States Congress—these good folks happen to be Democrats—about how to leave behind a legacy of a more secure America. We're talking about an incredibly important piece of legislation that will be voted on this Friday. It's a legislation to create a Department of Homeland Security; it's really a piece of legislation to make America a safer place.

And I want to thank the leaders who are here for their willingness to put partisanship aside and focus on what's best for the American people. I believe we're going to get a good bill on Friday out of the House. I ask the Senate to vote on the bill before they go home for their August vacation.

Secondly, we're making progress on a piece of legislation which will enable us to say that we passed laws to help protect investors, 401(k) stockholders, from corporate fraud. This Government—this Government will investigate, will arrest, and will prosecute corporate executives who break the law. And the Justice Department took action today.

And finally, I am hopeful that after a lot of work, we can get a trade bill up on the floor of the House and the floor of the Senate before they go home for August as well. This is an important part of a legislative package necessary to help create jobs and keep the economy going.

Today was a day of action and a day of accomplishment in Washington, DC. And I want to thank the Members for that.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:55 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

Statement on Northern Ireland

July 24, 2002

I strongly support Prime Minister Tony Blair's statement in the House of Commons today. The United States joins with his Government and the Government of Ireland in

holding paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland accountable when there is clear, convincing evidence of their use of violence or preparations for it.

The United States strongly backs the Good Friday agreement as the blueprint for peace and prosperity in Northern Ireland. Since its signing 4 years ago, the agreement has brought significant gains to the people of Northern Ireland, and it is a beacon of hope for people everywhere seeking to overcome histories of violence, terror, and sectarian strife. It is the responsibility of all parties, including those associated with paramilitaries and those who are not, to work together to uphold the agreement and its institutions.

I condemn the recent violence that has marred the lives of the people of Northern Ireland, and I commend those political and civic leaders who have worked to stop it. Paramilitaries must end their violent activities, cease all preparations for them, and recognize the political process as the only valid vehicle for change. Those who cling to the violent ways of the past cannot be allowed to derail Northern Ireland's progress towards a more peaceful future.

Remarks at High Point University in High Point, North Carolina

July 25, 2002

Thanks for that warm welcome, and thanks for coming out today. I want to thank you all for fighting through the rain. It's part of my drought relief program. *[Laughter]* I do want to thank you all for coming. I want to thank all your fellow citizens for lining the road and being so gracious in their hospitality. I love coming to North Carolina. It's a fabulous State, full of fabulous people. I'm honored to be here.

And I'm glad my friend Tommy Thompson came with me. He was the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, and then I convinced him to come to Washington to head up the Department of Health and Human Services. I did so because I understand he knows health issues; he knows welfare issues; he knows a good system when he sees one and a system that needs to be reformed when he sees one. And I'm glad Tommy came to Washington.

He's doing a heck of a job on behalf of the American people, and I want to thank you, Tommy.

I want to thank Richard Budd and all the folks here at High Point University for giving me a chance to come and discuss some important issues that face our Nation. It's a beautiful campus. The gymnasium could use a little air-conditioning. *[Laughter]* We'll try to keep the hot air down to a minimum. *[Laughter]* But we're thrilled to be here on this fine campus.

I also want to thank Jeff Miller of the High Point Regional Health System for—*[applause]*. We just had a fantastic and very interesting discussion about problems that affect patients, patients in North Carolina, health care patients in Nevada, problems that affect our docs. And I want to talk about some of that in a minute. But we just had a great discussion. I want to thank all the doctors and my fellow Americans who were there to share with me their stories, some of which I will share with you in a minute.

I appreciate Don Palmisano, who is the head of the—president-elect of the American Medical Association out of New Orleans, Louisiana, who flew in for this event. I want to thank you for being here, Don, and I want to thank you for your support on the initiative which I'm fixing to talk about.

I also want to thank the mayors of some of the communities here. We've got the mayor of High Point, the mayor of Greensboro, and the mayor of Thomasville. I appreciate all three mayors coming. I want to thank my friend Elizabeth Dole for coming over today to say hello. I appreciate you being here, Elizabeth.

I want to thank members of the North Carolina health and medical community, all you who worry about your fellow Americans and who work hard to provide good, quality health care. Thank you for coming here today.

Every time I come to a community, I like to herald some of the heroes of the community. And today, when I landed in Air Force One, there to greet me was a citizen named Jane Lambert. She's a—she's been volunteering here in this community for 50 years. She has been working hard to make people's lives better. It didn't require a Government

law saying, "Jane, you will help people in need." It required a good heart.

Jane has worked with Girl Scouts. She's worked through her church to bring meals to people who need food. She is the kind of person I call a soldier in the army of compassion. The truth of the matter is, the reason I like to introduce the Jane Lamberts of the world is because the great strength of America lies in the hearts and souls of our fellow citizens who love—[*applause*]. So I want to thank Jane. I think Jane is here. Where are you, Jane? Thank you for coming. Thank you for your work. Thank you for setting such a fine example, 50 years of service.

You know, I believe out of the evil done to America is going to come some good. And part of the good is for people to understand that serving something greater than yourself in life is a part of being a complete American. And Jane shows us what that means.

The security of our country is on the minds of a lot of our citizens. I want to talk a little bit about the security of America. It first starts with the homeland security. You hear a lot of talk about the President working with the Congress to set up the Department of Homeland Security, and we are. We're working hard on that. I just want to make sure that Congress understands that when we do create this Department, I've got to have the ability to manage the Department in a way to make the homeland more secure. I readily concede I didn't run for office saying, "Vote for me. I promise to make Government bigger." So I'm not interested in something big; I'm interested in something that works.

The number one priority of our Government is to protect the American people. We live in a new era. We're under the threat of coldblooded killers who hate America and hate our freedom. So our top priority, in all levels of government, has got to be to protect America. That's what we've got to do. I see some of our first-responders here, our police and EMS and firefighters. I want to thank you for the work you do.

We've got work to do in Washington. You just need to know that we've got a lot of good people, people who work for all levels of government, working overtime, working hard, to chase down any kind of lead that we get, any kind of hint. And we're following up on it.

Protecting our homeland is our most important priority. But the best way to protect the homeland is to hunt the killers down one by one and bring them to justice, and that's what this Government is going to do.

And I know this great State houses a lot of our military. And on behalf of a grateful nation, I say thanks to those who wear our uniform and to those who support those who wear our uniform.

And you need to know we're making pretty good progress. It's a different kind of war. It's hard to measure the results of this war based upon the old way of thinking. It used to be you could see tanks moving across a plain, and if the tanks made it to destination A, it was successful. This isn't the kind of war we're under. We're facing international criminals who hide in caves, send youngsters to their death, and think they can escape the long arm of justice of America. But they're not going to. No matter how long it takes—no matter how long it takes—this country will prevail.

And the reason why is, we love freedom. We love the values our country stands for. Anybody who wants to take our freedoms away is going to find a determined and tough and patient nation.

Secondly, a lot of people in this country are worried about the economy. They're worried about their job. I want you to know that I believe the economy is fundamentally strong. Our economy is growing. Inflation is low. We've got lower taxes, which help people keep their own money. And when you have your own money, it means you've got more money to spend. And when you spend that money for a good and service, it means somebody is going to provide a good or service for you. And as they provide a good or service, it means somebody is more likely to be able to find work.

We've got—the fundamentals for economic growth are strong. Employment is stabilizing. It looks like I'm going to have a bill on my desk very soon which will bring reforms to our corporate sector, which will mean that there will be accountability for chief executive officers and accountability for those who count the numbers, to make sure that our investors and employees across

America feel confident in what they're being told from corporate America.

It's a good piece of legislation. I look forward to signing it. In the meantime, you need to know that this administration will investigate, will haul in, and will prosecute any CEO which breaks the law.

The foundation for growth is there. But one of the things I think we understand is that without health security, there's no economic security. If we're not confident about our health care system, we won't be confident about the future of the country.

And we've got a problem. Right now, rising health care costs are undermining the availability of health care, of medical care, not only here in North Carolina but throughout our country. And the rising costs are forcing too many people to go without, and that's not right. That is a problem, and we need to address it soon rather than late.

As Tommy just told us, the report he put out from the Department of Health and Human Services shows that our badly broken medical liability system is responsible for higher costs for patients, for lower quality of care, and for decreased access. And I worry about it. I worry about it in big-town America, and I worry about it for small-town America.

I don't appreciate the fact that we see a health care system that is broken and riddled with bad—bad law, and we're not moving. And so one of the reasons I've come to North Carolina today is to lay down what I think we need to get done and call upon the Congress to act as quickly as possible to help us solve these problems. We're working hard to give more and more Americans access to quality care, and here are some of the initiatives.

America's seniors need an improved Medicare system which includes prescription drug benefits and a system which trusts our seniors to make the right decision for themselves. Medicare has worked in the past. Today, it is outmoded; it is antiquated. It is a great idea that needs to be modernized, and we're making progress. The House passed a bill. The Senate is squabbling about one right now. I think they can get something done. I hope I can report to the American people that we've finally begun to modernize

Medicare to include prescription drug benefits for all seniors.

Secondly, we need to allow small-business owners to pool insurance risk across jurisdictional boundaries. A restaurant in Raleigh, North Carolina, ought to be allowed to pool the risk with a restaurant in Crawford, Texas, so that the small-business owner and his or her employees can have affordable health care insurance.

We need personal health accounts to let workers pay smaller monthly premiums and save money for their medical costs. In other words, we've got to trust patients; we've got to trust the American people with their own money, to make their own decisions that best suit them for medical care.

And too many Americans are uninsured; I understand that. And that's why I called upon Congress to enact tax credits to enable the uninsured to buy the health care coverage they need and, at the same time, to expand what we call community health centers to provide quality care for low-income Americans. You see, we've got to make sure, for the efficiency of the system, that those poor folks who do not have health care get health care, but not in the emergency rooms all across America. The most efficient way to provide health care is in community health centers.

We're also, as you well know, getting a lot of health coverage to low-income Americans through Medicaid and uninsured children through Children's Health Insurance Programs.

And we're working hard to make sure health care is available, quality health care is accessible. Yet, any progress being made is being undermined, dramatically undermined by rising health care costs. And one of the main reasons that costs are rising is a broken liability system. And that's what I want to talk about today, what we ought to do about it.

First, too many lawsuits filed against American doctors are being filed that have no merit. Too many lawsuits filed against our doctors have no merit. But since it costs so much for doctors to defend themselves, they often settle cases, even though they have not committed a medical error. And the unpredictability of our liability system means that

even frivolous cases, even what we call junk lawsuits, carry the risk of enormous verdicts. In either case, health care costs rise for all of us, and you just need to know that.

Another cost driver is that the fear of even baseless lawsuits causes good doctors to order excessive tests and procedures and treatments. It's called defensive medicine. If you think you're going to get sued, you do everything you possibly can to prevent the trial lawyer from coming after you. Unfortunately, that costs patients a lot of money. Health care costs are up because docs are worried about getting sued and, therefore, oftentimes prescribe unnecessary and costly treatments.

Even when legitimate cases go to trial, the current system often doesn't serve the patient. Legal procedures are slow. It takes a long time. They can be very wasteful. And sometimes the lawyers take up to 40 percent of the verdict—40 percent. And while patients injured by a doctor's malpractice deserve fair compensation, there are too many cases of grossly excessive jury awards. And you know what I'm talking about. You hear them all the time these days, massive numbers laid out there. The thing that Americans have got to understand is, every one of us pay for those awards. Those excessive jury awards cost us all money, and it's part of why rising—why there's rising costs in the health care system.

Some insurers are now dropping medical liability coverage for doctors. Because of the system, insurers no longer insure docs. And they're hiking premiums as well. In your State of North Carolina, as well as eight other States, at least two companies raised liability insurance premiums more than 30 percent this year. You pay; you pay either as a patient, or you pay as a taxpayer. Higher and higher—because the reason you pay as a taxpayer is because your Government is paying a lot of health care bills.

Higher and higher insurance premiums make it nearly impossible for a lot of doctors to practice medicine, and if docs don't practice medicine, it's hard to have good health care. Without insurance, they cannot afford to treat patients. Without insurance, the trust between doctor and their patients becomes a broken trust.

Today, I mentioned, I had a discussion with some of the medical care providers and patients. There was a doctor here from Nevada. I don't know if you've been reading about what's taking place in Nevada, but they've got a real problem. As a matter of fact, an entire trauma center shut down because of medical malpractice. The fellow's name is Dr. Shelby Wilbourn, OB/GYN in Las Vegas. He had never been sued. He had never had a claim filed against him. Yet this year's insurance premium went from \$33,000 to \$108,000. The system needs to be fixed.

This poor fellow who had borrowed money to get out of medical school faced a choice. Does he want to run up a bunch of debt because somebody has threatened a lawsuit on him, or does he want to continue to practice his love, which is helping people, healing people? And so this month, he's closing his practice in Nevada, and he's moving to Maine, because the costs of doing business are about a quarter of what they were in Nevada. The trial lawyers, suit after suit after suit, have driven this good man out of Nevada. But more significantly, there are hundreds of patients who will miss his care.

Jill and Chet Barnes are with us. Jill is a student teacher, and her husband is a fireman. Actually, the fireman is not here; Jill is here. They live near Las Vegas, where her doctor left his practice in the State of Nevada because of high malpractice insurance rates. She's 8 weeks pregnant. She talks about the inability to find a doc. That's got to be really frightening for a young mom, not to be able to find a doctor with whom she can consult. She said that she found one doctor, but there's a limit to the number of deliveries this doctor can agree to take because of skyrocketing medical malpractice premiums. She now is driving to Arizona for an hour and a half—she's a teacher, and she's driving to Arizona to get her prenatal care. And she's worried. The medical system is hurting because of a lot of lawsuits driving up the cost of business. It's also making it hard for a lot of Americans to find quality care.

Laurie Peel had trouble finding a doc when she moved to Raleigh, because a lot of the practices were full. Then she ran into Dr. Schmitt. He's a nice fellow, OB/GYN. He agreed to take her on as a patient. They

got a wonderful relationship. He helped her a lot. He decided recently to go to Virginia, because of the high liability premiums here in North Carolina. He said, "It's no longer fun to practice medicine here." Not just here, it's no longer fun to practice medicine when there's a constant threat of a lawsuit hanging over your head. Laurie has to find a new doctor she can trust. Laurie's looking for a doc right now—yet another compelling, real-life story about what's taking place all across the country.

Fear of lawsuits is awful—also stifling innovation and the improvement of health care, which means sometimes patients aren't getting the best care possible. Here's why: If a hospital and a doctor share information about how they can serve their patients better, under the current systems, lawyers can use those discussions and that information to file lawsuits. If you sit down to decide how best to improve the practice, that becomes a piece of evidence in a lawsuit. And therefore, a lot of good folks, like the good folks at High Point Regional Health System, think long and hard about making changes.

I met with Paula Szytko today. She's a fine doctor. They've been warned, anytime they write anything down about improving the health care in this town, it can be given to lawyers who are fishing for lawsuits. And that's not right; it's just not right. The system is broken. It puts a burden on taxpayers, and we need to do something about it.

People say, "Well, is it a Federal responsibility? Should the Federal Government act on this problem?" And the answer is yes, and I tell you one clear reason why, besides my deep concern for our fellow citizens and whether or not they can find health care. The Federal Government uses taxpayers' money to fund health care programs, Medicare, Medicaid, children's health care, veterans' health care, military health care. And any time a frivolous lawsuit drives up the cost of health care, it affects the taxpayers. It is a Federal issue.

It is estimated that frivolous lawsuits drive up the cost of Government health programs by over \$25 billion every year. It's a national problem that requires a national solution. And it is my honor to come here today to describe what I think that solution is. The

Federal Government ought to set a minimum Federal standard to reform the medical liability system. That's what we ought to do.

We must, of course, protect any injured patient's right to a fair trial and fair compensation, including full compensation for economic damages. Anybody who goes into court and wins their case ought to get full economic damages. At the same time, we must prevent excessive awards that drive up costs, encourage frivolous lawsuits, and promote drawn-out legal proceedings. And that is why we need a reasonable Federal limit on noneconomic damages awarded in medical liability lawsuits, and the reasonable limit, in my judgment, ought to be \$250,000.

And we need a cap or a reasonable limit on what they call punitive damages. Doctors ought not—ought to be judged based upon clear misconduct. And our Federal Government ought to put a cap on punitive damages as well.

And finally, it's important to understand that in many cases, the current system forces doctors to pay damages for harm they do not cause. And therefore, we need what was called joint and several liability reform in Washington, DC, as well.

And finally, this law ought to include the ability for doctors to evaluate and hospitals to evaluate their practices so they can improve care without having the discussions discoverable for lawsuits. I mean, what we've got to focus on in America—what we've got to focus on is what's best for the patients. And what's best for patients is affordable health care.

We can get this job done. In California, when they had a problem with their medical malpractice insurance premiums, they put a law in place, and it worked. This is a reasonable law. This says that what we want is quality health care, not rich trial lawyers. What we want is people to feel comfortable with their system. People who are injured ought to be able to take their case to court, no question about it. But we've got to understand that frivolous lawsuits clog our courts and deny people with legitimate claims.

Doctors who practice bad medicine ought to be held accountable, no question about it. It's important for the system that they be

held accountable. But what we need is a system that doesn't drive people out of medicine and doesn't hurt patients. And the Federal Government needs to act, and the Congress needs to get a bill to me before they go home next—this late fall, a bill that will protect the American patients from medical malpractice.

I believe that when we pass this law, the system will be much better, and people will feel more secure. And that's what I'm interested in. I want the homeland to be secure. I want our fellow citizens to feel economically secure. I want the health care systems to continue to be the best in the world.

You know, I like to remind my fellow citizens of this: When the enemy hit us, they thought they were—they must have thought they were hitting a weak nation. Speaking about lawsuits, they probably thought all we would do was file a lawsuit. [*Laughter*] They didn't understand America, did they? They didn't understand, when it comes to defending freedom, we're plenty tough. But what they didn't also understand is that out of this evil done to our country we believe can come some good.

See, one of the interesting things that's happening in this country is that people understand that to be a patriotic citizen no longer means putting your hand over your heart—and by the way, saying, "one Nation, under God." [*Applause*] Thank you. But being a patriot means you're willing to help a neighbor in need, to serve something greater than yourself in life. That's what a patriot is.

You know, I was out at the airplane today, and I met the dad of a young boy and girl whose wife, Sandy, was on Flight 93. And Phil was there, and I appreciate him being there. And it just reminded me, seeing Phil Bradshaw, that the country understands that when you serve something greater than yourself in life, it's a part of being a great citizen. Obviously, these citizens made the ultimate sacrifice of personal responsibility, taking an airplane into the ground to save somebody's life. But I believe that out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good, as people realize that serving something greater than yourself in life is a noble calling, an important part of being an American.

So today, as I want to thank you again for coming, I hope that if you see somebody in need, you'll help them. If you find a child that can't read, help them read. If you know a shut-in who needs somebody to love them, tell him you love him. If you're a mom or a dad, love your children with all your heart and all your soul. It's a—this country has got problems, but we're going to solve them, because we're the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

Thanks for coming. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3 p.m. in the James H. and Jesse E. Millis Athletic/Convocation Center. In his remarks, he referred to Richard Budd, board of trustees chairman, High Point University; Jeff Miller, president, High Point Regional Health Systems; Mayor Arnold J. Koonce, Jr., of High Point; Mayor Keith A. Holliday of Greensboro, NC; Mayor Hubert M. Leonard of Thomasville, NC; senatorial candidate Elizabeth Dole; John W. Schmitt, M.D., faculty member, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Virginia; and Phil Bradshaw, whose wife, Sandy, was a flight attendant on United Airlines Flight 93 that crashed in Shanksville, PA, on September 11, 2001.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on the Proposed "Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002"

July 25, 2002

I commend the House of Representatives for its overwhelming bipartisan passage of reforms to hold corporate America accountable. This legislation will protect investors, crack down on fraud and wrongdoing, and provide tough oversight of the accounting industry. Leaders in Congress heeded the call to put the interests of investors and employees first. I look forward to prompt action by the Senate so that I can sign this important legislation into law.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 3763, the proposed "Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002."

Statement on Senate Action on the Proposed “Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002”

July 25, 2002

Today’s passage by Congress of corporate accounting reforms is a victory for America’s shareholders and employees. House and Senate passage of this legislation demonstrates what can happen when leaders work together to solve problems. I look forward to signing these important reforms into law. In February I also proposed tough changes to reform employee pension programs, and the House quickly responded. I urge the Senate to act before they recess to protect the savings of America’s workers.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 3763, the proposed “Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.”

Remarks at a Dinner for Senatorial Candidate Elizabeth Dole in Greensboro, North Carolina

July 25, 2002

Well, thank you very much, Senator. [*Laughter*] I want to thank you all for coming. I’m here for this reason: It is important for North Carolina, it is important for our country that Elizabeth Dole become the next United States Senator from North Carolina. And I want to thank you all for helping. And there’s no doubt in my mind, with your help and her hard work, she’s going to win.

She married well. [*Laughter*] But Bob got the better end of the deal—[*laughter*]—just like I did when I married. [*Laughter*] I’m sorry that Laura isn’t here tonight. She is—but she sends her love to Elizabeth and her thanks to you all. I’m really proud of Laura. She is, in my unobjective judgment, a great First Lady, no question a great wife. She’s a great wife. She’s come a long way from being a public school librarian in Texas—[*laughter*]—one who, frankly, didn’t like politics too much and didn’t really care for politicians either. [*Laughter*] But here she is, the First Lady of the greatest country on the face of the Earth, and she’s doing a great job, and she sends her best.

I know you all will join me in wishing Jesse Helms all the best, and he needs to get back to Washington. We need his vote—[*laughter*]—and he will be. And I appreciate so very much Lauch Faircloth for being here and former Senator Jim Broyhill as well. Thank you both for coming, and thank you for your service.

I want to thank all the folks who are involved with the Republican Party of the great State of North Carolina. I want to thank Bill Cobey and Linda Shaw, and I want to thank all the grassroots workers who are here. You know, you win a campaign if you can get people to show up to lick the envelopes and to make the phone calls and to hold the signs and to turn out the vote. The grassroots are excited here in North Carolina because they’ve got a candidate who is an exciting candidate and somebody who is going to make a big difference. So I want to thank you all for what you’ve done and what you got to do between now and November. I want to thank Fred Blackman for being the master of ceremonies of this event. I want to thank all the sponsors and the cohosts and the people that have done an extraordinary job of supporting Elizabeth Dole. Thank you for having me.

She is a—she’s got a lot of great experience, and that matters in my judgment. You know, the thing I love about Elizabeth is she’s constantly breaking what they call the glass ceiling. She shows what is possible. And that’s important, particularly for a lot of young women looking for a role model, somebody who has done a—[*applause*]—a person of accomplishment. In Washington, we’ve got a lot of good talkers, but we need doers, people who can get the job done. And Elizabeth Dole is that kind of person.

She is not only a trailblazer; she is a—she’s got a deep, abiding passion for people from all walks of life. Her compassion is real, and it’s heartfelt. When Elizabeth goes walking down the streets of smalltown North Carolina, for example—and I understand she’s doing a lot of that—she doesn’t ask somebody when they shake their hand, “Are you a Republican? Are you a Democrat?” She looks them in the eye as a fellow American, wanting to represent all the people of this

good State in Washington, DC. No, the people in North Carolina, when you find a good one like Elizabeth, you need to send her up there to represent your State and your country. And I'm confident you will.

Elizabeth and I understand the importance of agriculture to North Carolina and America. I had the honor of speaking to some FFA leaders today in Washington before I came up here. I reminded them that agriculture is not only important for our economy; it's important for our national interest. Imagine if we didn't have enough food to eat; we'd be in a bind. And it's important to always keep agriculture in the forefront of economic policy. But it's also important to remember that on our farms and ranches, we find good old-fashioned American values.

I know the people here are hurting because of the drought. I tried to do my part today with some rain. *[Laughter]* But it wasn't enough, so this week Ann Veneman has approved a request for Federal drought relief. I approved it for 73 counties. It's emergency assistance to pay living expenses and production costs and help refinance debt for the hard-struggling farmers here in your State. We also opened up a—*[applause]*

That's the kind of Senator you want, somebody who is a practical person, who is able to deal with the problems that confront the people of this good State. And we talked about drought relief, and I assured her we were sincere in our attempts to help the farmers through this difficult period.

Today I also had the honor of going out to High Point to talk about an important issue, and that's health care. Elizabeth and I talked about that. She and I are on the same wavelength. We want people to have health care that is affordable, and we want people to have a good relationship with their doctor. And one of the problems we face all across America is that we've got too many lawsuits, too many people suing our docs and hospitals, too many junk lawsuits that are causing our doctors to have to practice what they call defensive medicine for fear of getting sued, which then runs the cost of health care up on the citizens.

People say, "Well is this a Federal issue?" Of course, it's a Federal issue. The frivolous lawsuits that are filed all across the country

cost the Federal Government over \$25 billion a year. That's \$25 billion of your dollars. See, we pay Medicare, and we pay Medicaid, and we pay for the veterans, and we pay for our military. And all these junk lawsuits are running up the cost of medicine, which hurts our patients. And so, therefore, it's time for the Federal Government to act.

Today I proposed Federal tort reform for medical malpractice, and I asked the Congress to join me. That's the kind of item I need Elizabeth's help on in Washington, DC. We've got a lot on our—we've got a lot on our plate up there. And it's going to be good to have a good, steady Senator there.

We need freedom for our taxpayers—real freedom. We passed a tax relief plan, but because the Senate has got arcane rules, the tax relief goes away at some point in time. And that's not right. In order to plan, we need the tax relief permanent. In order to get rid of the awful death tax, we need to make sure that it is repealed permanently. We need a voice in the Senate who understands that.

We need to make sure that we free Americans from dependency upon Government, so when we reauthorize welfare, we insist upon work, and we provide help to people so they can find work. We need a Medicare plan that is modern. You know, Medicare is a great idea, except that it's antiquated. It was made for another time. It's time to reform Medicare so seniors have got prescription drugs and more options from which they can choose. It is time the Federal Government trusts the American people.

You know else why I need Elizabeth Dole? I want my judges to get a fair hearing. I picked—I've nominated good people to serve on the bench, good, qualified, distinguished Americans, like Terry Boyle. I put his name out there 14 months ago, and he can't get a hearing. I nominated a fabulous woman from Texas named Priscilla Owen, a great jurist ranked at the highest rating by the ABA, ran twice statewide in Texas and won. And yet, when you listen to the rhetoric up there, it's all politics in Washington, DC. They're not willing to give these judges their fair shake and a fair due. It's time to get the Senate in the hands of people who will approve the good jurists I send, so we can have

a Federal bench that will not legislate—from which it will not be—will not legislate from but will strictly interpret the Constitution of the United States of America.

Our economy is getting stronger. The foundations for growth are there. Inflation's low; we've got good monetary policy, got good tax policy; the productivity of the American worker is up. And today, thankfully, the Senate and the House passed corporate legislation which will insist upon holding people accountable for being honest with the American people, honest about their assets, honest about their liabilities. And I want to assure you what took place yesterday will continue to take place. This administration will investigate, will arrest, and will prosecute chief executive officers who break the law.

Elizabeth knows what I know—is that this country is still in danger of attack. We're fighting an enemy who is incredibly ruthless. They don't value human life like we value human life. They hate freedom. They cannot stand the thought that in our great country, we worship an Almighty God freely, that we respect all religions in America, that we're not ashamed of our religious beliefs and our tolerance. They can't stand the thought that we have an open debate in our society. They don't like the free press. They don't like anything we stand for because we believe in freedom, and therefore, they still have designs on attacking America. And we will do everything we can to protect our homeland. It is, by far, the most important job I have.

We're making pretty good progress. A while ago I proposed the creation of the Department of Homeland Security. I want to tell you right quick why I did. There are over 100 agencies in Washington, DC, that have got some part of the—of protecting the homeland. They're scattered everywhere. They're all over the place. In order to make sure that the number one priority of the primary agencies involved with homeland security is the protection of the American people, they ought to be under one boss. We ought to put those agencies under one Cabinet position. It's important to do so for reasons of accountability, but it's also important to do so to make sure we change cultures in Washington, DC.

And we're making some progress. This is not a Republican idea, by the way, or a Democrat idea; this is an important idea for all of America. And as the Congress debates the issue, it is so important for them to give me the ability to manage this Department, so I can come before the American people and say, "We've got the tools necessary to protect the homeland."

You need to know that there is a lot of really fine Federal Government employees working a lot of hours to protect you; they really are. We can just do it a better way and a better job. We're running down every hint. We're running down every lead. If we get a sniff from something abroad, the information is now shared on a timely basis with our FBI, for example. And we're just—we're on full—full alert. We're chasing everything down. We're spending a lot of time on the subject.

But the best way to secure the homeland, the best way to defend our freedom, the best way to make sure America is as safe as possible is to hunt these killers down, one by one, and bring them to justice. And that is exactly what the United States and our friends are going to do.

It's a different kind of war. We're facing people who hide. You know, they don't have armies and tanks and equipment. It doesn't take much for them to strike. They—as I like to tell people, these are the ones that hide in a cave and send youngsters to their death. They hijack a great religion and then tell kids to go kill themselves. That's the way they are. And they're still out there. A lot of them were trained in these Al Qaida camps. But we're making good progress. You just need to know, we've got over a couple of thousand of them captured. And just about that many weren't quite as lucky.

And it's not just us. We've put together a vast coalition of countries that understand the stakes; they understand that this is a defining moment in the 21st century. The doctrine that says, if you harbor a terrorist, feed a terrorist, or hide a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorists—it still holds. And so does the doctrine, either you're with the United States and those of us who love freedom, or you're not with the United States and those of us who love freedom.

Our first action was to rout the Taliban. They harbored terrorists; they fed terrorists; and they were treated just like the terrorists. And thanks to the mighty United States military, we routed the Taliban.

I want the youngsters here to understand that your country did not go into Afghanistan as conquerors. We went in as liberators, and we freed people from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind. For the first time, thanks to the United States and our friends and allies, young girls get to go to school in Afghanistan. We're working with the interim—with the Government of Chairman Karzai. We're helping to feed the people. We're helping to provide infrastructure. We're doing everything we can to enable this country, this war-ravaged country, to develop into a hopeful place.

But in the meantime, there are still Al Qaida people in the country. And so you'll see—sometimes you'll see and sometimes you won't see the fact that our military is still hunting them down. When we figure out they are somewhere, that's where we're going to be. One time, they tried to group up in the Shahi-Kot Mountains. That's the last time they made that decision. *[Laughter]*

The other thing we're doing is we're denying them sanctuary. See, once you get them on the run, then they're looking for safe haven. So our strategy is to remind other nations that we don't want them to have safe haven. The other day, the Philippine Government went after this group called Abu Sayyaf* and got their leader. This was the group of people that killed Mr. Burnham out of Kansas. I met his—by the way, I met his wife in the Oval Office, Gracia Burnham. You talk about a fabulous woman, who believes deeply in the Lord. Her heart is right. She is strong. She told me—she said, “Mr. President, I appreciate the fact that you and the Government, and the Government of the Philippines did everything you can to rescue us.” I told her, I said, “You just need to know, because of our working with the Philippine Government, there's one less terrorist available to kill somebody.”

* White House correction.

We're making progress. We're making it clear that if you try to provide sanctuary for these people, you'll be dealing with the United States of America. This is a pledge I have made not only to those who have lost life on September the 11th and others, but it's a pledge I make to our children and grandchildren. We owe it to future generations to be tough and resolved and dedicated to protecting our freedom, no matter what the cost.

And that means dealing with nations which harbor and develop weapons of mass destruction. We must not, for the sake of the future, and we cannot allow the world's worst leaders to threaten America or our friends and allies with the world's worst weapons. I'm a patient man. I intend to use all the tools at our disposal. But for the sake of freedom, for the sake of what's right, for the sake of a—for the sake of history, we're not going to let the world's worst leaders threaten America with the world's worst weapons.

I'm incredibly proud of our country. It's a great country, because we're great people. You know, I just cannot imagine what the killers were thinking. They were sitting around in some cave, probably, saying, “You know, if we attack them, they won't do anything. You know, they may file a lawsuit.” *[Laughter]* “They'll just sit back. They're so materialistic and so self-absorbed and so self-ish, they're not—they're not going to defend anything.”

What they didn't realize is they were attacking a great nation. What they didn't realize is that we're people who will defend our freedom at all costs. But as importantly, out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good. I believe that when our country—*[applause]*—I believe that as we remain tough and resolved and lead a coalition that understands the true threats we face in the 21st century, we can achieve peace.

And my goal is peace. I want there to be peace in the world. I know there are going to be some tough moments. There are going to be some high hurdles to cross. But my vision is one that says the world can be peaceful. I believe that. And I believe by routing out the terrorists, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace for our country; we can

achieve peace for our friends and allies; we can achieve peace in places like the Middle East or in South Asia as well.

And at home, we can accomplish a lot. See, out of the evil done to America is coming good, because people are taking an assessment of what's important in life. They've stepped back after September the 11th and taken kind of an assessment of their personal balance sheet, and realize it's not just dollars and cents, that life is not just money, that in order to be a complete person, life is serving something greater than yourself. And that's what's happening in America.

That's why I feel so strongly that we must have what I call a Faith-Based Initiative. Because I understand in America, in spite of our wealth, there are pockets of despair and hopelessness, addiction and loneliness, but these are Americans we're talking about. In our country, when one hurts, all of us have got to hurt in America, as far as I'm concerned. And therefore, the good that can come out of the evil will be when Americans put their arm around somebody in need and say, "I love you, brother," or when they mentor a child, or when moms and dads renew their effort to be as great a parent as they can possibly be. You see, if you're lucky enough to be a mom or a dad, your most important job is to love your child with all your heart and all your soul.

It's happening in America, all across this land. People from all political parties, from all walks of life, are saying, "What can I do to make America a better place? How can I serve something greater than myself in life?"

One of the reasons I first got into politics is because I was worried about a culture which had clearly said, "If it feels good, go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else." I wanted to help be a part of a change of a culture which says, "We're all responsible for the decisions we make in life, that we all have responsibilities, that serving something greater than yourself is a part of being an American."

Perhaps that lesson came home most vividly to me, and I'm sure to you, about what took place on Flight 93. I happen to think it's a defining moment for the culture of our country. People flying across this country re-

alized that a plane was going to be used as a weapon, perhaps a weapon on the White House or on the Capitol. They were on their cell phones with their loved ones; they said, "I love you." They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll," and they took the plane in the ground, to serve something greater than themselves.

This country—out of the evil done to this country is coming incredible good, an understanding that to be an American means to love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. When the enemy hit us, they didn't know who they were hitting. They hit the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

It's my honor to be here with you tonight. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6 p.m. in the Grandville Ballroom at the Grandover Resort and Conference Center. In his remarks, he referred to former Senators Bob Dole and Lauch Faircloth; Bill Cobey, chairman, and Linda O. Shaw, national committeewoman, North Carolina Republican Party; and President Hamid Karzai of the Transitional Authority of Afghanistan.

Remarks on Proposed Legislation To Establish the Department of Homeland Security

July 26, 2002

The President. Thank you all for coming. Welcome to the White House. Good morning.

Audience members. Good morning.

The President. I appreciate so very much being joined here by firefighters and police officers and emergency personnel, public officials at the local level, the State level—I know we've got some Governors here. And I want to thank you all for coming.

We're on the cusp of doing something right for America. And I appreciate the members of my Cabinet who are here. I want to thank the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Transportation, the head of the Office of National Drug Policy. I appreciate Kay James being here. I want to thank Tom Ridge for his hard work.

But most importantly, I want to thank the Members of Congress who got up pretty early after not much sleep—[laughter]—for

your hard work and your care for our country. I see Senator Lieberman, who is really working hard in the Senate to cobble together a homeland security bill that will work. I appreciate Senator Nickles being here as well; Senator Bennett from Utah. Thank you all for coming.

I really want to thank Chris Shays and Jim Gibbons for coming, and Mac Thornberry as well—the three fine Republican Members, along with Steve LaTourette. But I also want to thank Ellen Tauscher from the State of California. She's been working really hard to make this bill a bipartisan bill, where the American people can see both Republicans and Democrats working together to do what's right for the country. I really want to thank you all for coming.

I also want to thank the heads of agencies who are here. Jim Loy, who's the Under Secretary for Transportation, Chief Operating Officer of the Transportation Security Agency—served our country nobly as the—running the Coast Guard and has now put on another uniform called a coat and tie. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank Tom Collins, who does head the Coast Guard, Robert Bonner, who runs the Customs. I want to thank Jim Ziglar for running the INS. I appreciate again my Governor friends, Rowland, King, and Patton for coming up today. And I also want to thank my Mayor, Anthony Williams, the Mayor of Washington, DC.

I want to acknowledge Mike Carona of Orange County, California, who's with us, the sheriff. Where are you, Mike? There you are, Mike, looking right at you. I appreciate you coming. He represents the local officials, what we call in Texas the high sheriffs. He's the fellow who recently apprehended the killer of Samantha Runnion there in California. I want to congratulate you for your good work, helping make your community as safe as possible.

America, we're in our 10th month on the war on terror. And we've got a great deal to show for our efforts. We're making progress. And that's important for the American people to know. Our country continues to lead a mighty coalition of civilized nations, all joined in facing a common threat to humanity.

This is the first war of the 21st century, and we're making progress. We and our allies have uncovered terrorist cells all across the world. We're disrupting plots. We're doing a pretty good job of seizing their assets and cutting off their money. And we've got them on the run. See, these are international killers. That's all they are. And we're getting them on the run. So far we've captured over 2,000 of the terrorists, and just about that many weren't quite as lucky. But there's still a lot of them out there.

And what you need to know as leaders in your communities is that, no matter how long it takes, we're going to run them down, one by one, and bring them to justice. And we do so not only to defend freedom and civilization, itself; we do so to protect the American people, which is our highest calling.

We defeat the threat abroad, and we're doing a pretty good job here at home as well. Congress has passed new laws to help. Congress has already acted to help our law enforcement agencies investigate and prosecute terrorists. Congress responded quickly after September the 11th in a fashion that made me proud, and I know that made the American people proud.

We've strengthened our aviation security and tightened our borders. We've stockpiled medicines to defend against bioterrorism. We've developed new technologies to help first-responders identify and react to attacks. We've dramatically improved information-sharing amongst our intelligence agencies. Governor Tom Ridge has produced the first comprehensive plan in our Nation's history to protect America from terrorist attack. It's a good piece of work, and I appreciate you and your staff, Tom, for working hard on it.

We're taking urgent measures against clear vulnerabilities, and now we must also prepare our Government and our people for the long-term vigilance that the new threats will require. I say "long-term" because this is a determined enemy we face. This isn't just a one-battle war. This is a war that will occupy not only our time, but will occupy the time of future Presidents and future Members of the United States Congress and future agency heads. The number one priority

of this Government and the future Governments will be to protect the American people against terrorist attack.

And so, therefore, I believe it's important, we must create a Department of Homeland Security to prepare America for the permanent duty—for the permanent duty—of defending the homeland. And these Members here today agree with me. We need this Department for one main reason: America needs a group of dedicated professionals who wake up each morning with the overriding duty of protecting the American people.

The agencies in this Department will have other duties—no question about it—but no higher responsibility. Protecting American citizens from harm is the first priority, and it must be the ruling priority of all of our Government.

The Department of Homeland Security will have four primary tasks. It will control our borders and prevent terrorists and weapons from entering our country. The way I like to put it is, we need to know who's coming in and why they're coming in and what they're bringing in with them, and whether or not they're leaving when they say they're going to leave.

Secondly, the new Department will work with our incredibly brave and dedicated first-responders, many of—the representatives of whom are on the stage with me today. We need to be able to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies. We need good cooperation between the Federal Government, the State governments, and the local governments.

We bring the best scientists together to develop technologies that will detect biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons, and to discover drugs and treatments to protect our citizens. We need to harness the great genius of the American people to make sure that it's focused on the true threat of the 21st century.

And for the first time, this new Department will merge under one roof the capability to identify and assess threats to the homeland, to map those threats against vulnerabilities, and then to act to secure America. The Department of Homeland Security will draw on the knowledge and experience of every sector in America. We'll work

in a collaborative way with the people who care about America, and that's the American leadership and the American people, at all levels of government.

This administration is working with Congress to forge a bipartisan bill, and I want to appreciate the members of both parties for coming this morning. I believe we're making good progress. And of course, being the modest fellow that I am, I'm willing to recognize a good idea even if it comes from Congress. [*Laughter*] Yet, it's important to understand this: I'm not going to accept legislation that limits or weakens the President's well-established authorities—authorities to exempt parts of Government from Federal labor-management relations statute—when it serves our national interest.

Every President since Jimmy Carter has used this statutory authority, and a time of war is the wrong time to weaken the President's ability to protect the American people. And as Congress debates the issue of how to set up this Department, I'm confident they're going to look to me to say, "Well, is it being done right," after they got the bill passed. And therefore, it is important that we have the managerial flexibility to get the job done right. We can't be—we can't be micromanaged. We ought to say, "Let's make sure authority and responsibility are aligned so they can more adequately protect the homeland."

Now, look, I fully understand the concerns of some of the unions here in Washington. Somehow, they believe that this is an attempt by the administration to undermine the basic rights of workers. I reject that, as strongly as I can state it. I have great respect for the Federal employees. I travel the country as one of them, talking about how we need to work together to protect the homeland. I think of the times I've gone to Coast Guard cutters or gone to ports of authority or gone to our labs or seen our first-responders, many of whom happen to be a member of the union. Never have I said, "Show me your card." I've always said, "Thanks for being a proud American and for working hard for the American people."

So the notion of flexibility will in no way undermine the basic rights of Federal workers. Workers will retain whistle-blower protection, collective bargaining rights, and protection against unlawful discrimination. The new Secretary must have the freedom to get the right people in the right job at the right time and to hold them accountable. He needs the ability to move money and resources quickly in response to new threats, without all kinds of bureaucratic rules and obstacles. And when we face unprecedented threats, like we're facing, we cannot have business as usual.

I am—I appreciate the work of Senator Lieberman. He's working hard. I am concerned, however, the way the committee has passed out the homeland security bill. The bill doesn't have enough managerial flexibility, as far as I'm concerned. I look forward to working with the Senator and the Republican Members to get the bill right, to make sure that when we look back at what we've done, we will have left behind a legacy, a legacy that will allow future Senators and future Members of the House and a future President to say, "I can better protect the homeland, thanks to what was done in the year 2002."

It's very interesting that Harry Truman took on the same task. And as I understand, it was on this day 55^{*} years ago that he signed the National Security Act of 1947. It was an act that helped win the cold war by consolidating the Navy and the Army and the newly independent Air Force into what was interestingly called the National Military Establishment. [*Laughter*] It's now known as the Department of Defense. [*Laughter*]

But he thought boldly, and so did the Members of Congress. They recognized that after World War II, we were going to enter into a new era. And therefore they adjusted the sights of the Federal Government. That's what has happened now. History has called us into action. We're entering a new era, and we must adjust our sights, and we must respond.

And I know the Members here, and I know the Members on the floor that are working hard. And I'm confident we will re-

spond in a way that will make America proud—America proud of our efforts to come together but, more importantly, America more secure in the knowledge that we're doing everything we can to protect the homeland.

Thank you all for coming. May God bless your work, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:44 a.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. John G. Rowland of Connecticut; Gov. Angus S. King, Jr., of Maine; Gov. Paul E. Patton of Kentucky; Michael S. Carona, sheriff-coroner, Orange County, CA; and Alejandro Avila, who is accused of the July 16 murder of 5-year-old Samantha Runnion in Stanton, CA.

Remarks on the Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

July 26, 2002

Well, thank you all for coming, and welcome to the White House. We like to call this the people's house, and we're glad you're here. Today we celebrate the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, landmark legislation that opens the door for more than 50 million people living with disabilities—50 million Americans.

For 12 years, the ADA has proven that when people are treated with dignity and respect, our entire Nation benefits. And the best way to celebrate the progress the ADA has made is to continue and build on that progress.

I want to thank the Attorney General for coming today. I thank Elaine Chao for being here, Mel Martinez and Norm Mineta, Tony Principi, all members of my Cabinet. I appreciate Senator Bob Dole joining us today. I missed you yesterday in North Carolina, but thanks for coming. I appreciate so very much the leaders of the United States Congress who are here today with us, Senators and Members of the House of Representatives. Thank you all for taking time from what appears to be a pretty hectic time to lend your support and commitment to this vital goal, that all Americans are welcomed in America.

^{*} White House correction.

I appreciate Dick Thornburg, who was the Attorney General when my dad was the President when the ADA was signed, and he helped very much make sure that it was all done in a way that would pass muster. I thank him for being here as well.

I want to thank Cari Dominguez, who is the Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, for coming; thank Kay James, who is the Director of Office of Personnel Management, for coming.

I also want to thank Lex Frieden for being here as well. Lex is a representative of the Dart family. Justin Dart passed away on June 22d, 2002. He was known by many as the father of the Americans with Disabilities Act. He had a huge impact on our Nation. We mourn his loss, and we thank Lex for being here.

The ADA is one of the most compassionate and successful civil rights laws in American history. It has made our schools and workplaces more welcoming. It has changed attitudes that once seemed unchangeable. And the ADA has given opportunity to some exceptional Americans.

Today I'm joined on stage by some exceptional Americans. They are participants in the National Youth Leadership Network, an organization sponsored by the Federal Government and committed to advancing the next generation of disability leaders. Through their hard work and determination, each of them embodies the true spirit of the ADA.

William Le'Ron Jackson, seated right here to my right—oh, yeah. Let me tell you what he said: "In spite of all the barriers I have encountered, I always hear my mother's voice saying, 'Le'Ron, keep reaching up.' And that is exactly what I plan to do." This fall, Le'Ron is returning to college to continue reaching toward his goal of becoming a paralegal. When he's not studying, he's an active volunteer in his community. Le'Ron Jackson is an example of how the ADA changes lives. He is a role model for all Americans with and without disabilities. Thank you for being here.

The ADA has given greater hope and dignity to countless Americans. Yet, our work is not complete. Too many individuals still find it difficult to pursue an education or own a home or hold a job. We must continue to

remove the artificial barriers to achievement that remain.

Last year, my administration unveiled the New Freedom Initiative, an effort to continue on the hopeful path of the ADA. This initiative gives people with disabilities increased access to new technologies for independent living, greater educational opportunities, better access to the workplace and community life.

For too many individuals with disabilities, inadequate transportation limits access to schools and churches and jobs, and this is one obstacle the New Freedom Initiative addresses. The 2003 budget I submitted provides \$145 million for alternative transportation and innovative transportation grants, so that people with disabilities can work and participate more actively in their communities. And I urge the Congress to fully fund my New Freedom Initiative budget requests.

And when Americans with disabilities participate in their communities, they should not be penalized. Today, Medicare recipients who are considered homebound may lose coverage if they occasionally go to a baseball game—which, of course, I encourage them to do—[laughter]—or meet with a friend or go to a family reunion. New technology is allowing even the most significantly disabled Americans to be more mobile. That's just a fact. And they should not be forced to trade their benefits for a little freedom. So today I announce we're clarifying Medicare policy, so people who are considered homebound can occasionally take part in their communities without fear of losing their benefits.

We're also determined to help people like Le'Ron to their full potential, by expanding educational opportunities. In both my budgets, I've asked for increases in special education grant funding of \$1 billion. These are the largest increases ever proposed. In addition, I created the Commission on Excellence and Special Education, to recommend policies to improve the educational performance of students with disabilities. The Commission provided excellent recommendations in its recent report. And I look forward to working with Congress, and I hope Congress will closely examine those findings when it considers the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

You know, when my father signed the ADA into law in 1990, he said, “We must not and will not rest until every man and woman with a dream has the means to achieve it.” Today we renew that commitment, and we continue to work for an America where individuals are celebrated for their abilities, not judged by their disabilities.

Again, I want to welcome you all here. I want to thank those who were pioneers in this landmark legislation for being here to celebrate this anniversary. I am now pleased to sign a proclamation in honor of the 12th anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act. Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:47 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Proclamation 7579—Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 2002

July 26, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) is one of the most compassionate and successful civil rights laws in American history. In the 12 years since President George H.W. Bush signed the ADA into law, more people with disabilities are participating fully in our society than ever before. As we mark this important anniversary, we celebrate the positive effect this landmark legislation has had upon our Nation, and we recognize the important influence it has had in improving employment opportunities, government services, public accommodations, transportation, and telecommunications for those with disabilities.

Today, Americans with disabilities enjoy greatly improved access to countless facets of life; but more work needs to be done. We must continue to build on the important foundations established by the ADA. Too many Americans with disabilities remain isolated, dependent, and deprived of the tools they need to enjoy all that our Nation has to offer.

My Administration is committed to removing the barriers that prevent people with disabilities from realizing their full potential and achieving their dreams. The New Freedom Initiative, which I announced last year, builds on the hopeful path of the ADA. It provides Americans with disabilities increased access to assistive technologies, expands educational options, and increases opportunities for them to integrate into our workforce. We are committed to ensuring the delivery of vital services to disabled persons in an integrated, community-based setting.

My Administration will continue to enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act, and we will work with businesses and State and local governments to increase partnerships that promote the purposes of the ADA. Together, we are working for a day when all people with disabilities are able to live and work with dignity, freedom, and independence and realize their potential as fully integrated members of our society.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim July 26, 2002, as a day in celebration of the 12th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. I call upon public officials, business leaders, people with disabilities, and all Americans to pursue the ADA’s full promise of equal opportunity and to celebrate the expanded freedom that the ADA has brought to American life.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:52 a.m., July 29, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 30.

Exchange With Reporters Following a Meeting With the House Republican Conference

July 26, 2002

Legislative Agenda

Q. How are you doing, Mr. President?

Q. Would you talk for a moment, please, sir?

Q. Mr. President, what did you tell the conference today?

The President. You know, it's been an amazing week. A lot has gotten done here in the Congress, and I want to thank both the Republicans and Democrats. I think—I know the American people expect their elected Representatives to work together to get some things done, get the homeland security bill. We're even going to get trade promotion authority, which will be good for jobs and American workers. We've got a corporate responsibility bill. It's a good piece of legislation, overwhelmingly supported by both Republicans and Democrats.

The American people saw last week that this administration and the Justice Department will track down those—prosecute those CEOs who break the law. We're making good progress here. I want to thank the Members of the House; I talked to them about how pleased I am with the progress we're making.

Q. What about prescription drugs on the Senate side, sir?

The President. Well, we'll see what comes out. [*Inaudible*—prescription drugs and Medicare. I've said that since I became the President, and we'll see what happens.

Right now I'm focused on the trade vote. We're going to get a free trade agreement, which is very important for jobs and workers, very important for our farmers and ranchers, and it's very important for our economy. We're going to get a good homeland security bill. And as you know, we've got a good corporate responsibility in a bipartisan bill.

So a lot has taken place here, and I'm real proud of the Members of both parties.

NOTE: The exchange began at 4:35 p.m. at the Capitol. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Legislation To Create a Department of Homeland Security

July 26, 2002

I commend the House of Representatives for acting quickly to pass landmark legislation to create a Homeland Security Department. This legislation represents the most extensive reorganization of the Federal Government since the 1940s. Our Nation needs a new department with the overriding mission of protecting the American people from the threats of terrorism.

This bill includes the major components of my proposal—providing for intelligence analysis and infrastructure protection, strengthening our borders, improving the use of science and technology to counter weapons of mass destruction, and enhancing our preparedness and response capabilities.

The House bill also provides the Secretary of Homeland Security managerial flexibility needed to build and maintain a department capable of responding rapidly to the terrorist threats of the 21st century.

The House has shown a strong commitment to improving the security of the American people, and I urge the Senators to do the same before they leave for the August recess.

Proclamation 7578—National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, 2002

July 26, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Fifty-two years ago, armed forces from North Korea shattered the peace as they crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded South Korea. A 22-country force assembled to face this Cold War challenge, and the majority of them were Americans. The brave men and women of this coalition fought courageously to defend a population facing tyranny and aggression, and they succeeded in defeating the invading forces.

During the Korean War, approximately 1.8 million members of the United States Armed Forces fought in places such as Pork Chop Hill, Pusan Perimeter, and the Chosin Reservoir. During the intense fighting, approximately 34,000 American lives were lost in combat; 92,000 were wounded; and more than 8,000 listed as missing in action or taken prisoner. Their distinguished service reminds us of the words engraved on the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington—"Freedom Is Not Free."

As we face the challenges of a new era and a new war, we look to America's Korean War veterans for their example of dedication and sacrifice in defending freedom. These men and women faced a formidable adversary and endured harsh and bitter conditions in upholding our Nation's heritage of valor, tenacity, and honor during this important stand against Communist aggression. For their gallantry in action, 131 servicemen earned our Nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor. More than 90 of them received the award posthumously.

Forty-nine years ago, the Military Armistice Agreement ended the fighting and stopped the spread of Communism in Korea. In order to thank and honor veterans of the Korean War and their families, America will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War through November 11, 2003. Today, as the Republic of Korea stands as a strong, democratic, and progressive nation, we thank our Korean War veterans for serving our Nation and the world with courage and distinction. These patriots advanced the principles and ideals upon which our Nation was founded, and they helped promote liberty, opportunity, and hope.

The Congress, by Public Law 104-19, as amended (36 U.S.C. 127), has designated July 27, 2002, as "National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day," and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim July 27, 2002, as National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities that honor and give thanks to

our distinguished Korean War veterans. I also ask Federal departments and agencies and interested groups, organizations, and individuals to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff on July 27, 2002, in memory of the Americans who died as a result of their service in Korea.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 29, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 30.

Proclamation 7580—Parents' Day, 2002

July 26, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Parenthood is a profound blessing, bringing with it responsibilities that are both challenging and rewarding. The care, dedication, and attention of parents are critical to their children's success. As they teach, guide, and nurture, parents help their children to realize their potential and achieve their dreams. Parents also play a critical role in shaping their children's character by sharing important life-lessons and values and showing them how to love and care for others.

As we face the challenges of a new era, families remain the foundation of our civil society; and parents are the cornerstone of strong families. This important responsibility often presents difficult problems and trying circumstances as parents balance competing demands such as making a living, raising their children, and participating in their communities.

Our Nation has made great progress in recognizing the importance of effective parenting, but there is still much to do. My Administration is committed to promoting a

healthier society by helping parents build stronger families. Many studies have shown that children do better in two-parent households where the parents are married; and as part of our plan to promote the well-being of children, I have committed significant resources to programs that encourage healthy and stable marriages. While no law can ensure that people love one another, we can support initiatives that help couples learn how to build successful marriages and be good parents.

My Administration supports community-based efforts that help delinquent fathers improve their lives so they can become effective parents. With job training, employment, counseling, and career advancement education, we hope to make it easier for more fathers to have positive relationships with their sons and daughters. We have also taken important steps to empower and inform parents through the No Child Left Behind Act, ensuring that they will be vital partners in their children's education. Further, every child in America deserves to live in a safe, stable, and loving family; my Administration is committed to increasing public awareness about the importance of adoption and to encouraging Americans to consider adopting children. By pursuing these significant measures, we increase compassion in our society, and we make America a better place for all.

The nurturing and development of children require widespread investment, focus, and commitment. While Government plays an important role in this process, citizens, schools, and civic institutions must also assist parents by reaching out to help meet the needs of young people in their communities. By working together to provide for our children, we will show them the way to a brighter future.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States and consistent with Public Law 103-362, as amended, do hereby proclaim Sunday, July 28, 2002, as Parents' Day. I encourage all Americans to join me in honoring the millions of mothers and fathers, biological and adoptive, foster parents, and stepparents, whose selfless love and determined efforts

influence lives for the good of their children and our Nation. I also urge all Americans to express their love, respect, and appreciation to our parents, and I call upon all citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 30, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 31.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

July 21

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

July 22

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He then traveled to Argonne, IL, and later returned to Washington, DC.

July 23

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings. Also in the morning, he had a telephone conversation with President Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia to discuss cooperation against terrorism and Secretary of State Colin Powell's upcoming visit to Southeast Asia.

In the afternoon, in the Cabinet Room, the President met first with House Democrats and then with House Republicans to discuss homeland security. Later, he dropped

by a meeting between National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and President Rafael Hipolito Mejia Dominguez of the Dominican Republic to discuss trade negotiations.

The President announced his intention to appoint Susan Schanlaber (historic preservation expert) and Emily Anne Rich Summers (public representative) as members of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

July 24

In the morning, the President had a breakfast meeting with Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott, and House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt to discuss foreign policy issues, including events in the Middle East, and the congressional agenda. He then had CIA and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

Later in the morning, the President met with Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe of Sri Lanka to discuss efforts to resolve the civil conflict in Sri Lanka and other issues. He then met with a group of Cabinet ministers from Afghanistan who were in Washington, DC, to attend a summit on recovery and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan.

In the afternoon, the President met with American missionary Gracia Burnham and other members of the Burnham family to express his condolences concerning the death of Gracia's husband, Martin, during the June 7 effort to rescue the couple from the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group which held them hostage in the Philippines. Later, in the Cabinet Room, he met with Republican Members of Congress to discuss homeland security.

The President announced his intention to nominate Joaquin F. Blaya to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

The President announced his intention to nominate Juanita Alicia Vasquez-Gardner to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation (State court representative).

The President announced his intention to appoint Lyle Richard Brown as U.S. Commissioner and Presiding Officer of the Upper Colorado River Commission representing Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the National Cancer Advisory Board: John Edward Niederhuber, Marlys Jane Popma, and Franklyn Grenfel Pendergast (public representatives); Moon Shao-Chuang Chen, Jr., and Lydia Ryan (science/environmental carcinogens representatives); and Kenneth Harvey Cowan and Jean Bayhi deKernion (science representatives).

July 25

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, he spoke to National Future Farmers of America State President's Conference participants.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to High Point, NC, where he participated in a roundtable discussion on medical liability reforms at High Point Regional Hospital. Later, he traveled to Greensboro, NC.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

July 26

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings.

In the afternoon, in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, the President met with American Legion Boys Nation and Girls Nation participants.

The President announced his intention to nominate James C. Miller III to be a Governor on the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service.

The President announced his intention to appoint David Brady as a member of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted July 24

Joaquin F. Blaya,
of Florida, to be a member of the Broad-
casting Board of Governors for a term expir-
ing August 13, 2002, vice Carl Spielvogel, re-
signed.

Joaquin F. Blaya,
of Florida, to be a member of the Broad-
casting Board of Governors for a term expir-
ing August 13, 2005 (reappointment).

Johnny Mack Brown,
of South Carolina, to be U.S. Marshal for
the District of South Carolina for the term
of 4 years, vice Israel Brooks, Jr., term ex-
pired.

Peggy Goldwater-Clay,
of California, to be a member of the Board
of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholar-
ship and Excellence in Education Founda-
tion for a term expiring June 5, 2006 (re-
appointment).

Robert Maynard Grubbs,
of Michigan, to be U.S. Marshal for the East-
ern District of Michigan for the term of 4
years, vice James Douglas, Jr., term expired.

Denny Wade King,
of Tennessee, to be U.S. Marshal for the
Middle District of Tennessee for the term
of 4 years, vice Edward Scott Blair, term ex-
pired.

Juanita Alicia Vasquez-Gardner,
of Texas, to be a member of the Board of
Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship
Foundation for a term expiring December
10, 2003, vice Steven L. Zinter, term expired.

Submitted July 25

Sandra J. Feuerstein,
of New York, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Eastern District of New York, vice
Thomas C. Platt, Jr., retired.

Kent A. Jordan,
of Delaware, to be U.S. District Judge for
the District of Delaware, vice Roderick R.
McKelvie, retired.

Jeffrey S. White,
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Northern District of California, vice
Charles A. Legge, retired.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office
of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as
items nor covered by entries in the Digest of
Other White House Announcements.

Released July 22

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Released July 23

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing
that the President signed H.J. Res. 87

Fact sheet: Helping Children and Building
Families Through Adoption

Released July 24

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nominations of U.S. Mar-
shals for the Eastern District of Michigan,
the District of South Carolina, and the Mid-
dle District of Tennessee

Fact sheet: President Proposes Minimum
Standards for Medical Liability

Released July 25

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nominations of U.S. Dis-
trict Judges for the District of Delaware, the
Northern District of California, and the East-
ern District of New York

Released July 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Office of Personnel Management Director Kay James on legislation to establish the Department of Homeland Security

Fact sheet: Honoring the Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

the disposal of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel, pursuant to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982

S. 2594 / Public Law 107–201
Support of American Eagle Silver Bullion Program Act

Approved July 24

**Acts Approved
by the President**

H.R. 2362 / Public Law 107–202
Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission Act

Approved July 23

H.J. Res. 87 / Public Law 107–200
Approving the site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, for the development of a repository for

H.R. 3971 / Public Law 107–203
To provide for an independent investigation of Forest Service firefighter deaths that are caused by wildfire entrapment or turnover